

COURSE SYLLABUS

Psychology 490
Spring 2013
Neff Room 374
Dr. David M. Young
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Text: Beier, E. G., & Young, D. M. (1998). *The Silent Language of Psychotherapy*. Third Edition, Aldine: New York

Also various handouts will be distributed including Ethical Code of the American Psychological Association.

Some Notes On This Course:

This course is designed to involve you actively in learning a good deal about the practice of psychotherapy from the perspective of the communications analysis model. Additional contemporary models will also be discussed. The class size is small enough to manage as a seminar. Each week we will be discussing current readings from the text or other sources. In addition we should have time to discuss your individual projects (more about that later). We will also devote class time to supervising your role-played therapy tapes; reviewing the cases (providing clients give permission) I am seeing in the department clinic, and other matters of interest (e.g. your family observations). My strong hope is that the class functions as an interested and active discussion group, one in which I am not "spoon-feeding" a group of passive students. I am confident that the semester will be a stimulating one. As the success of this course depends on participation and interaction it is essential that everyone attend. Our goal this semester is to document evidence based treatment whenever possible. As we meet as a full group only once per week please make every attempt to make our meetings.

A Note On Confidentiality:

The clinical case material that you review on videotape or during live case demonstrations, or illustrative case material **can only be discussed in our classroom during class hours or in my office during consultation**. The clinical material may be discussed only with members of this class or the instructor and is to be shared with no other persons. This policy is extremely important. We may also schedule a visit to a local psychiatric hospital (time permitting) where confidentiality is of extreme importance.

Major Assignments:

Research Paper (and Presentation) - This paper will be a major review of the literature in an area of your choice related to psychotherapy. The topic must be approved by the instructor. I will be **happy** to review a draft of your paper or an outline prior to the due date. The paper must be fully referenced and must comply with APA style guidelines for references. In addition to APA reference standards, you will need to provide a listing of all call numbers, library

information, and sources of all material cited. Papers will be checked for original content. Plagiarized papers will receive zero credit and students who plagiarize are subject to disciplinary action. I will provide you with a source of information regarding this format. Each student will also be responsible for presenting his or her paper to the class. **Please - no reading!** Just share your findings and opinions with us - as in a discussion group. I will expect to have individual appointments with each of you to discuss your projects as the semester continues. The expected length of the paper is about 15 pages.

Daily Assignments (Clinical Summary) - On occasion, and with client permission, you may observe my work with a client in the clinic or on secure digital media. After you observe me working with a client in the clinic or on videotape, a one-page (at most) session summary is due at the following class. More about this, including format, later.

Daily Assignments (Therapy Recordings - Student) - Eventually, as your skills develop, students are assigned to one another to role-play therapy cases and therapists. The sessions are to be 30 minutes in length. There will be more about this and partner assignments later. Each student is to bring a recent recording to class each week. Students are also required to submit a one-page summary of each therapy session they observe in the clinic. The format for this will be presented in class. As we approach the end of the semester, this assignment will be discontinued. Please remember to schedule your appointments with the department secretary.

Family Observation or Consultation - Each student will be required to observe a family unit of two or more people for a period of at least six hours. Each student will write a report describing and analyzing the functional communication patterns of the family. (See the section on "The Consultant in the Home" in my text [Ch.14]). The expected length of the paper is approximately five pages.

**Reading assignments from the text (and additional materials)
will be made on a weekly basis.**

Grading:

As this course is a clinical practicum, grading will be handled somewhat differently than a conventional lecture-discussion course. I am not yet expecting professional skill levels for this course, but do expect consistent effort and participation. I expect all students at this introductory clinical level to be a bit nervous when role-playing in front of the cameras or other students. This is a normal reaction and should fade with greater practice. Attendance and participation will be considered an essential part of class performance.

Note: All daily class assignments must be handed in **IN CLASS (although questions are to be emailed as noted above). LATE, E-MAILED OR PAPERS PLACED IN THE MAILBOX ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. The final due date for the research paper is in class, Wednesday, April 3. The final due date for the family observation paper is Wednesday, April 17 in class. If you anticipate any possible problems with these dates, please hand them in early.**

Office Hours:

My hours will be scheduled and posted soon. However, I will be in my office often and will be available for a quick consultation. Also, please feel free to schedule an appointment with me. I expect to visit with each student informally to review outlines, etc. You are welcome to call or drop by!

Final Examination Schedule:

University policy requires that we meet during final examination week. Our scheduled time to meet is Monday, May 6 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. This will serve as a regular class meeting and will conclude the student presentations. We will not have a written examination at this time.

Disabilities Statement:

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb Union, room 113, telephone number 481-6658), as soon as possible to work out the details. Once the Director has provided you with a letter attesting to your needs for modification, bring the letter to me. For more information, please visit the web site for SSD at <http://www.ipfw.edu/ssd/>.